

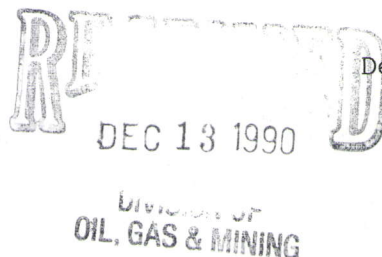


DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
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M/021/004

Hecla Mining Company

Lowell Braxton
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1230



December 7, 1990

RE: Hecla Escalante Mine Tailing Impoundment Reclamation Plan

Dear Mr. Braxton,

As a result of discussions held over the past few months with your agency (UDOGM), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Bureau of Water Pollution Control (UBWPC), we have revised the subject reclamation plan. Enclosed are two copies for your review. This plan was prepared by our technical consultants, Grant Schreiber and Associates of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, under the direction of Dr. David L. Schreiber, who is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Utah. Dr. Schreiber, an internationally respected hydrogeologist, and his firm were selected to address the UBWPC ground water protection concerns.

Hecla continues to recognize the July 2nd, 1980 reclamation commitments approved as part of the original mining and reclamation plan for the Escalante silver mine, and the newly revised bond amount (6 December 1990). We believe this plan fully meets those commitments. The plan should meet the BLM requirements and satisfy UBWPC concerns as well. In addition, the plan meets Hecla's own environmental objectives that should assure future environmental protection. Some of the reclamation provisions may be viewed as additional precautionary steps. Hecla views any positive precautionary measures of the plan as additional voluntary actions required by our own stringent environmental objectives designed to alleviate future liability and ensure stable, long term reclamation success.

We are anxious to proceed with the reclamation of the tailings impoundment. Thank you for your group's comments and suggestions on the past reclamation drafts. Please contact me should you have any questions regarding the plan.

Sincerely yours,

P. Bryan Johnson
Environmental Specialist

PBJ:lj

Enclosures